

Weekly Police Beat for the week ending May 25, 2018

Homeless Man Spends Daytime Hours in Western Grove Park Lately

Village Police have spoken with the man and are monitoring; no apparent threat

On Wednesday, May 23, Village Police responded to Western Grove Park to check the welfare of a man lying on a bench in Western Grove Park. Police located him; his name is Stephen, he is a white male, about 5'7" tall, 200 pounds, with brown hair and a graying beard. He often paces and talks to himself, so we understand why we received calls about him. Stephen suffers from some form of mental illness, but he is very smart and he can carry on a conversation with ease.

Officers spoke with Stephen at length and learned that he is homeless by choice. Village officers offered to connect him with several social services—from housing to food to clothing—and he declined them all. With the limited information that Stephen provided, officers were later able to positively identify him. He is not wanted by the police, and there is no indication that he presents a threat to others. Officers have advised Stephen that Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission regulations prohibit him from sleeping in the park at night, and he acknowledged that.

Village officers have made our Park Police partners aware of Stephen, also. Village and County officers patrol the park, and both agencies have checked on him.

Village officers will continue to patrol the park and to check on Stephen. If you witness him bedding down in the park at night or engaging in behavior that damages the park or alarms you in some way, please call the Village Police Department so that we can follow up right away.